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As I promised in my recent letter, on 22 July 1948 I requested Personnel Branch to supply me with a statement which would permit you to look around for other jobs in Europe. I am sorry that a memorandum just received, dated 26 July 1948, advises me that your request has been denied.

I feel that I should make some further explanation to you so that you will not think that this is an arbitrary action. The attitude of Personnel Branch is that you went overseas as a CIA employee on a two-year contract, and unless there are very strong reasons why you should not fulfill that contract, they do not see fit to release you. They also point out that if you were released in Europe CIA would still be responsible for bringing you home at the termination of your contract. Of course, if you were employed by another government agency that shouldn't make very much difference to the American taxpayers. Nevertheless, that is the stand which they take.

I feel that there would be no objection if you should get lined up with [redacted], as we previously discussed. The real trouble is that this agency is having a terrible time recruiting and processing people to fill all of our vacancies and they are most reluctant to permit anyone to leave prior to the termination of their contract unless there are very urgent reasons for doing so. Please be assured that I personally discussed this with the Chief of the Personnel Branch and asked him to change his mind.

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As I told you in my earlier letter, I hope that you will see fit to stay with us. I am sure that you will find Cyprus a very pleasant assignment. However, if you still want to pursue the [redacted] angle, I shall offer no objections.

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Sincerely,

L. K. White

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